

M E T R O***planning*****N E W S**

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Central Northeast Area Plan Update

By Nalini Johnson, AICP

An update to the 1995 Northeast Area Plan is currently underway. Two public meetings have been scheduled for March 17 and May 26 at Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, at 2755 E. 19th St., to provide feedback to the plan document. A steering committee appointed by Carl Brewer will continue to meet twice a month at Atwater Neighborhood City Hall until June 9.

The 1995 report, titled *Rediscovering Community: Exploration of a Place and its Promise*, is an issue-based document that seeks to address issues that are common to area neighborhoods (see Map). Top issues identified to date include the need to rehabilitate older homes, solve crime, and provide more employment opportunities for area residents. The Plan and Plan Update will be presented in July and August to the MAPC, the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration and approval.

A copy of the draft plan, the project timeline and the public meeting flyer can be viewed by going to <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/AdvancedPlans/>, and scrolling down to Neighborhood Revitalization Plans section. For more information, contact MAPD at 268-4421.

Acknowledgements:

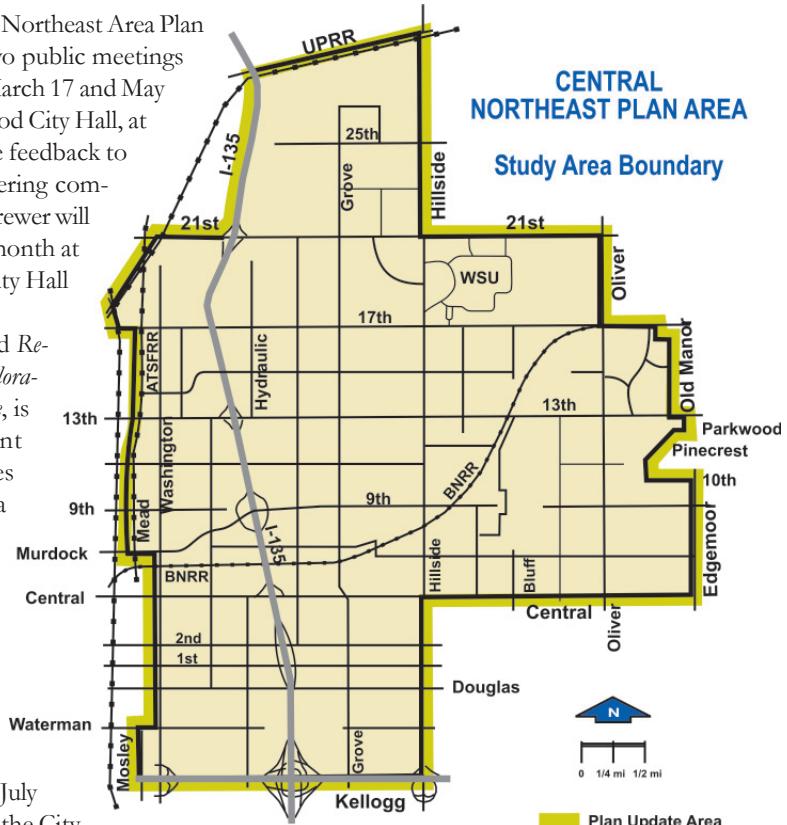
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***Midtown Rezoning Approved!***

By Jess McNeely

On March 1, 2005, the Wichita City Council voted to approve a neighborhood-wide rezoning for the "Historic Midtown" Neighborhood. This was the first step in implementing the Midtown Neighborhood Plan, adopted in May 2004. Active and ambitious residents of the Midtown Neighborhood wasted no time in accomplishing this task, one that will benefit all neighborhood residents.

The rezoning process began by establishing the Midtown Neighborhood Rezoning Committee, consisting of neighborhood and city representatives. The committee was formed to recommend a new zoning scheme for the neighborhood, taking many factors into consideration. *(continued on page 2)*

Midtown Rezoning (*from page 1*)

An inventory and analysis of existing land uses and zoning was completed in July 2004. The Rezoning Committee subsequently completed a preliminary rezoning scheme that was presented at two neighborhood public meetings on September 7 and October 26 at the Midtown Community Resource Center. Two letters were sent to all property owners in the Plan area, advising them of the rezoning initiative and inviting them to attend the neighborhood meetings. The Wichita Eagle announced each of the public meetings, along with contact information.

Starting in November, the final proposed rezoning scheme was presented to, and approved by, the District VI Advisory Board (DAB), the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPD) Advance Plans Committee, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC).

Congratulations to the entire Midtown Neighborhood, and especially to those who volunteered to make this improvement possible. For more information, contact the MAPD office at 268-4421.



The Pratt/Campbell House is one of many historic residences located in the Midtown Neighborhood



El Mercado Business Plan

By Nalini Johnson, AICP

The recently adopted 21st St. North Corridor Revitalization Plan includes the creation of an International Marketplace District. This district will include the development of a *Mercado Público*, or Public Market, as an anchor project. While the Mercado is projected to showcase primarily Hispanic products, including freshly prepared foods, it is envisioned to include other ethnic goods, making it the premier International destination in the Wichita region.

To realize the vision of a vibrant and sustainable Mercado, MAPD hired a consultant with extensive experience assisting Hispanic businesses here and abroad. Mr. Roberto Baeza is slated to complete the business plan in March. Results of the business plan will be presented to the Implementation Coordinating Committee, appointed by the City Manager, in early April.

For more information about the business plan, or the Implementation Coordinating Committee, contact Nalini Johnson, at 268-4421.

ASLA Community Service Project – McAdams Neighborhood

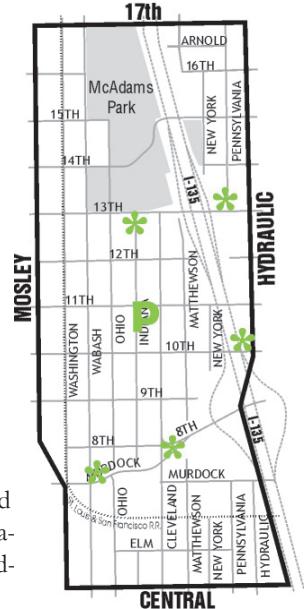
By Dave Barber, AICP



In anticipation of Landscape Architecture Month in April, the Wichita Section of the American Society of Landscape Architects has been working on a couple of pro-bono community service design projects to be completed this spring. Working in conjunction with the Wichita-Sedgwick County MAPD and the Wichita Parks and Recreation Department, the first project is the design of a pocket park on the southeast corner of 11th Street and Indiana in the McAdams neighborhood.

This small, vacant lot will have a play area with a rubberized safety surface, new landscaping and seating. The second project is the design of attractive neighborhood identification signs at five key entryway locations into the McAdams neighborhood. The construction of these two projects will occur later this year using Community Development Block Grant funds previously allocated for this purpose. The ASLA services of staff from Suburban Landscape Management (Wichita) and Brent Thomas from Baughman Company are greatly appreciated by the McAdams Neighborhood Association.

McAdams Area



Changes at Area's Transportation MPO

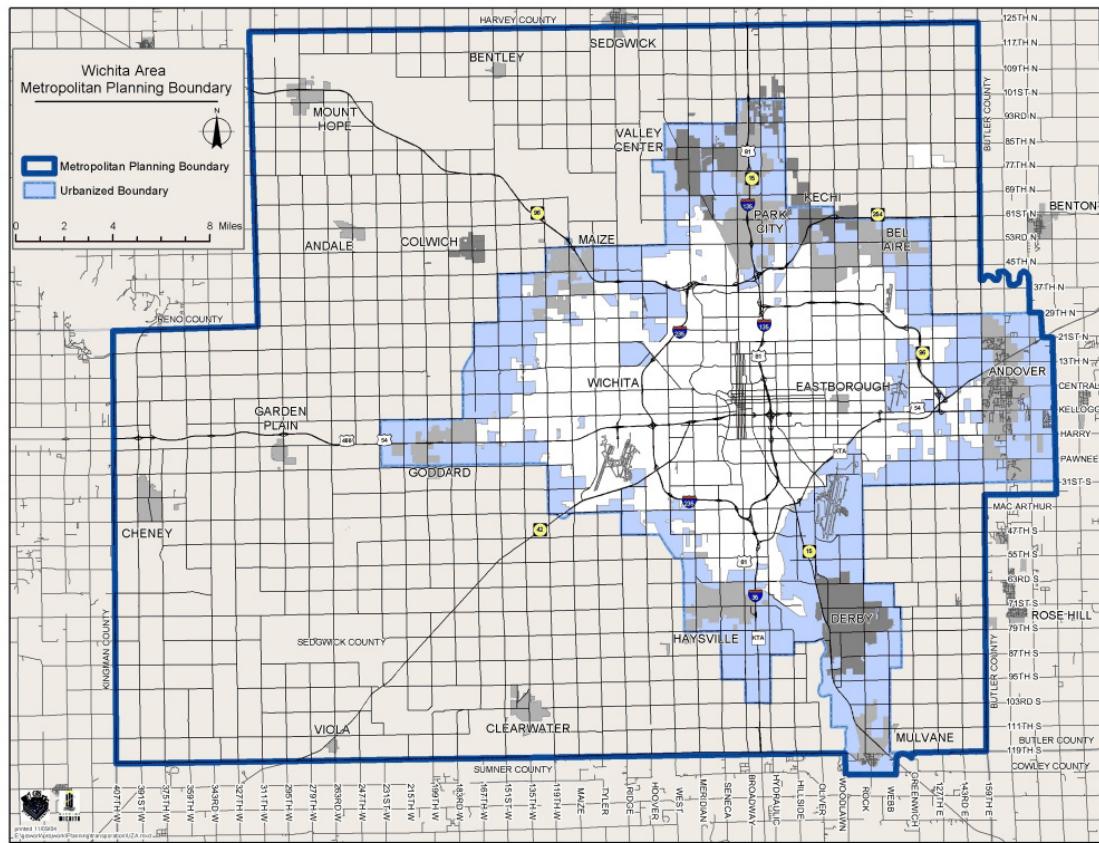
By Nancy Harvieux, AICP

Due to demographic changes reflected in the 2000 census, the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is expanding representation within its planning area. As such, the MPO now includes Mulvane in Sumner County, and Andover in Butler County.

To complement this expansion of the planning area, additional members have been added to the Policy Body, assuring representation in decision-making of all areas that now fall within the MPO planning boundaries.

Also added to the Policy Body are representatives from the Sedgwick County Association of Cities, Wichita Transit, and an Ex-Officio seat for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Along with changes in the planning area, the organization has undergone a name change. It is now known as the Wichita Area



Metropolitan Planning Organization (**WAMPO**).

The first official meeting of the newly designated Policy Body was held on March 10, 2005.

For more information, contact Nancy Harvieux at 268-4421.

Transportation Public Involvement Policy Adopted

By Nancy Harvieux, AICP

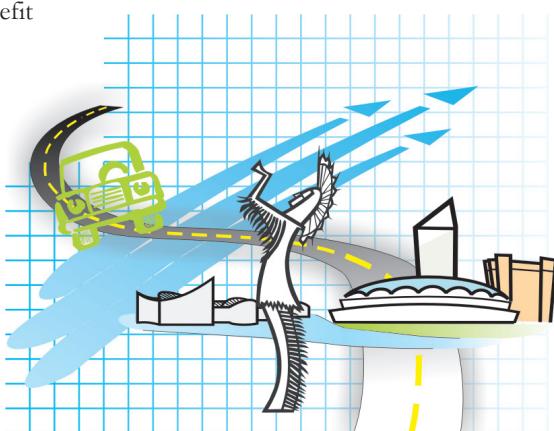
The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) Policy Body adopted the Public Involvement Policy (PIP) on February 10, 2005. Seeking meaningful public involvement is important for sharing concerns of our community. The WAMPO feels local contribution to transportation planning is vital for the metropolitan area. The revised PIP is a guide to ensure decisions are made with the benefit and consideration of important public perspectives.

Effective transportation decision-making depends on understanding and addressing unique needs of different socioeconomic groups. The WAMPO encourages comments from groups and individuals belonging to minority populations, low-income populations, and other groups with special needs.

The WAMPO will be developing newsletters and a website to help share information about the transportation planning activities in the area.

To view the nine-page PIP document, visit: <http://www.wichita.gov/NR/rdonlyres/391E5C81-00F9-41D5-8D56-63C79E700BA1/0/PIPdoc.pdf>

For more information on the WAMPO and its activities log on to the Transportation Planning website at: <http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/Transportation>



Public Meetings for McConnell AFB Joint Land Use Study

By Dave Barber, AICP



trends adjacent to McConnell, and to balance future operations at McConnell with the growth needs of Sedgwick County. The study is conducted by RKG Associates Inc.

For further information, please contact Dave Barber at 268-4490, MAPD offices.

Public meetings to discuss the McConnell AFB *Joint Land Use Study* will be held at 7:00 p.m., April 12th, Room 117, Colvin Community Center, 2820 S. Roosevelt, Wichita, and at 7:00 p.m., April 13th, Police Department/Municipal Court Building, 229 North Baltimore, Derby.

The purpose of these two meetings is to discuss recommended alternatives for future development near the Base, while maintaining public health and safety and protecting the mission capability of McConnell Air Force Base.

On January 11 and 12, 2005, two public workshops were held to discuss initial research findings related to aviation activities and development trends on land adjacent to McConnell Air Force Base. During these workshops, local residents discussed how to best manage land development near the base.

In 2004, the City of Wichita, City of Derby and Sedgwick County initiated the study, in cooperation with officials from McConnell Air Force Base. The purpose of the study is to examine land use and development



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
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